



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **Recreation Commission Minutes 07/29/2008**

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:05 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, July 29, 2008.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Nancy Campbell, Jim Robillard, Jen Rothenberg and Don Vitters. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connally.

Members of the public included: Clarissa Rowe, Jeanne Leary, and Vicci Recckio.

### **Other Business**

#### **Summer Street Planting**

Ms. Rowe reviewed the Summer Street beautification plan and the desire to plant 72 trees owed to the Town from the Mass Highway Summer Street project. The two areas of focus would be in front of the rink and Summer Street field and in front of McClenen Park. Ms. Rowe stated that they might swap out some of the trees for some evergreen species. Also, the evergreens planted at Peirce School Playground (one of which is dead) would be removed and relocated and a shade tree planted at the corner of Newland and Summer instead.

Ms. Rowe stated that they would like to place 7 Red Maples staggered on top of the riprap above Buck Field. The plan would also include two kinds of Spruces behind some of the existing trees on Summer Street in front of the Rink. Ms. Rowe further stated that Linden's would be planted along Forest and Summer Streets. Mr. Robillard agreed to meet with Ms. Rowe to stake out the locations for planting to insure that there is no "field of play" or safety issues for the playing field.

The Commission, Ms. Rowe and Ms. Leary discussed the removal of the new fence along Summer Street adjacent to the field. It was not approved by the Commission and the Commission and field users feel that it serves no purpose and interferes with enjoyment and access to the playing field. The Commission and Ms. Rowe asked Mr. Connally to talk to DPW Director John Bean about removing the fence for the planting.

Ms. Rowe will send the Commission a final planting plan and the Commission will hold a public hearing.

#### **Menotomy Rocks Clean-up**

Ms. Mayer and Mr. Connally discussed their concern with the use of chainsaws for an up-coming Menotomy Rocks clean-up day. The Commission reviewed the current maintenance agreement with Ms. Rowe. Ms. Rowe explained that the intent was to remove a group of Norway Maple trees at an entrance to the park along Shawnee Road. Mr. Connally will draft an appropriate indemnification form and send it to Ms. Rowe. Ms. Rowe will mark the trees and then let Mr. Connally know. Mr. Connally will then let the Commission know so that they can review the area.

### McClenen Planting

Ms. Rowe stated that she is working with Carol Johnson's office to develop a planting plan for McClenen Park. Ms. Rowe stated that the Town is eligible for a grant program to receive enough trees to install a grove of trees at McClenen. While the property is still under the jurisdiction of the Redevelopment Board, the Commission discussed their concerns about appropriate placement and asked that potential sites be marked and that they be given the opportunity to review any planting plan.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The Park and Recreation Commission reviewed the minutes of June 10, 2008. Mr. Vitters amended the minutes for a grammatical error. Mr. Robillard motioned to approve the amended minutes and it was seconded by Ms. Rothenberg. Motion was approved 5-0.

### Special Events

International School of Boston – Robbins Farm – 9/7/2008 with a rain date 9/14/2008

The Commission discussed this request with Ms. Recckio. Ms. Rothenberg discussed the importance of staying to time frame of the permit. Ms. Recckio stated that she did not believe people would be hanging around all day. Mr. Connolly outlined the following conditions:

1. Certificate of Liability
2. Trash in / Trash out
3. Bathroom arrangements with the School Department
4. Police detail for the duration of the event
5. Time frame of the permit adhered to

Ms. Campbell motioned to approve with conditions, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 4-1 with Ms. Rothenberg voting in the negative.

Alex Hoffinger – Friends of Waldo (Movie Night) – 9/6/2008 and rain date – 9/13/2008

The Commission discussed the request. Ms. Vitters motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 5-0.

### **Jenn Swing – Handicap Swing for Parallel Park**

Mr. Connolly reviewed the request from Lara O'Connell of 95 Medford Street to install a handicap swing called a JennSwing at Parallel Park. It was noted that the swing could be used by any child. Mr. Connolly fully supported the measure and stated the expense was approximately \$500. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the purchase and installation of the JennSwing at Parallel Park, seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 5-0.

### **Bench for Peirce Elementary School Playground Area**

Mr. Connolly and Ms. Mayer reviewed their site walk of the Peirce School and request from the PTO to install a bench at the school near the playground for a former teacher. Mr. Connolly stated that the bench would not have a plaque on it at this time. The Commission discussed the bench and location. Ms. Campbell motioned to approve the request at the location outlined by Ms. Mayer and Mr. Connolly. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 5-0.

Ms. Rothenberg and the Commission discussed the importance of finding a solution to the school/park land maintenance issue.

### **Picnic Request Form**

Mr. Connelly reviewed the draft form with the Commission. Ms. Rothenberg suggested the fees be change to reflect a sliding scale with respect to the number of people. Mr. Connelly also stated that those organizations with over 100 expected attendees should have liability insurance. Mr. Connelly will research other similar municipal picnic requests and report back to the Commission.

### **Rink and Recreation Updates**

Mr. Connelly reported that both the rink and recreation budgets finished fiscal year 2008 in the black with approximately \$5,000 for recreation and \$30,000 for rink.

Mr. Connelly stated that the participation numbers for the summer seemed very good considering the current financial constraints in the economy.

Mr. Connelly was proud to announce that the ice rink stands were being painted and that the finished product looked very good.

Mr. Connelly also reminded the Commission about its inaugural golf tournament on Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **Capital Update**

Buzzell Field – Mr. Connelly stated that the basketball courts were currently being completed and it was estimated final completion would be within the next 10 days. Ms. Mayer asked if the area adjacent to the courts would be repaired. Mr. Connelly stated that it would and that the contractor owned the maintenance until it was officially turned over to the Town.

Thorndike Parking – Mr. Connelly stated that he and Ms. Mayer met in a working session with the Redevelopment Board. Ms. Mayer stated that the Board reviewed all the options and was overall very positive. Mr. Connelly stated that they would be meeting in a working session with the Conservation Commission on August 7<sup>th</sup>. Special permits and approvals from these two boards will be needed for this project.

Pheasant Ave. – Mr. Connelly stated that the playground was moving ahead nicely and on time. Mr. Connelly pointed out the attractiveness of the Rosetta Stone retaining wall. Mr. Connelly is hopeful the project will be completed by the first day of school.

Summer Street Field – This was discussed at the beginning of the meeting in Other Business.

Handicap Parking at Parks and Play grounds – Ms. Mayer and Mr. Connelly stated that they had not yet driven around to the different facilities for an inventory.

Menotomy Rocks – Mr. Connelly stated that the aerator motor needs replacement and the line has to be secured. Mr. Connelly also stated that he isn't convinced the irrigation box is repaired.

### **Committee Updates**

Green Dog – Ms. Mayer stated that Ms. Rowe, Mr. Connelly and herself would be getting together in August to review the next steps.

### **Correspondence**

Ms. Rudd Request – Mr. Connelly reviewed the draft response to Ms. Rudd from the Town about issues related to the Parmenter property run-off. The Commission discussed the response. Mr. Connelly stated that his concern was not the content of the memo

but the declaration that the property is under the control of the Park Commission. The Commission agreed that this information was yet to be determined and should not be included in the memo.

Buck Field Noise – Ms. Mayer reviewed the letter from Mr. Cerrato. In the letter Mr. Cerreto was concerned about the level of noise and time of night of the noise at Buck Field since the installation of the lights. The Commission discussed the concerns with Mr. Connelly. Mr. Connelly did state that he had at least two discussions with Mr. Cerrato about his concerns. The Commission will share Mr. Cerrato's concerns with Cal Ripken when they come to a fall meeting and try to brainstorm a possible solution. Ms. Mayer will respond to Mr. Cerrato with this information.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:35 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation